

wherein the sending computer is comprised of an input device connected to a first controller, in turn connected to a transmitter and the receiving computer is comprised of a receiver connected to a second controller, in turn connected to an output device;

wherein the sending computer is connected to the computer network, which is in turn connected to the receiving computer; and

wherein the input device is capable of scanning a first document and providing a standard facsimile signal of said document to the first controller, the first controller capable of converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal and forwarding said computer data signal to the transmitter, the transmitter capable of transmitting said computer data signal to the receiver, the receiver capable of forwarding said computer data signal to the second controller, the second controller capable of rendering a second document, which is substantially similar to the first document, to the output device based upon the computer data signal.

21. (new) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the input device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

22. (new) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the second controller is capable of converting the computer data signal to a second standard facsimile signal and forwarding said second standard facsimile signal to the output device; and
the output device capable of generating the second document on paper.

23. (new) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

24. (new) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the output device is a printer.

25. (new) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the computer network is a TCP/IP network.

26. (new) A facsimile transmitting/receiving system comprising a sending computer, a computer network, and a receiving computer
wherein the sending computer is comprised of a first controller connected to a transmitter and the receiving computer is comprised of a receiver connected to a second controller, in turn connected to an output device;
wherein the sending computer is connected to the computer network, which is in turn connected to the receiving computer; and

wherein the first computer has a computer data signal and forwards said computer data signal to the transmitter, the transmitter capable of transmitting said computer data signal to the receiver, the receiver capable of forwarding said computer data signal to the second controller, the second controller is capable of converting the computer data signal to a standard facsimile signal and forwarding said standard facsimile signal to the output device; and
the output device capable of generating the second document on paper.

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- 27. (new) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.
- 28. (new) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the computer network is a TCP/IP network.
- 29. (new) A method of transmitting a facsimile copy of a document from a first location to a second location comprising the steps of:
 - scanning a first document into an input device at the first location to generate a standard facsimile signal;
 - forwarding the standard facsimile signal to a first processor at the first location;
 - converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal at the first location;
 - transmitting the computer data signal to a second processor at the second location; and
 - rendering a second document substantially similar to the first document at the second location;
- 30. (new) The method of claim 29 wherein the transmitting is accomplished via a computer network.
- 31. (new) The method of claim 30 where the computer network is a TCP/IP network.
- 32. (new) The method of claim 29 wherein the input device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.
- 33. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein the input device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.
- 34. (new) The method of claim 29 further comprising the steps of:
 - converting the computer data signal to a second standard facsimile signal at the second location; and
 - forwarding the second standard facsimile signal to an output device at the second

location.

35. (new) The method of claim 34 wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

36. (new) A method of transmitting a facsimile copy of a document from a first location to a second location comprising the steps of:
creating a computer data signal representing a first document at the first location;
transmitting a computer data signal from a first processor at the first location to a second processor at the second location;
converting the computer data signal to a standard facsimile signal at the second location;
and
forwarding the second standard facsimile signal to an output device at the second location.
rendering a second document substantially similar to the first document at the second location;

37. (new) The method of claim 36 wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

38. (new) A method of transmitting a facsimile copy of a document from a first location to a second location where a second document is rendered which is substantially similar to the first document comprising the steps of:
scanning a first document into an input device at the first location to generate a standard facsimile signal;
forwarding the standard facsimile signal to a first processor at the first location;
converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal at the first location; and
initiating transmission of the computer data signal to a second processor at the second location.

39. (new) The method of claim 38 wherein the transmitting is initiated via a computer network.

40. (new) The method of claim 39 where the computer network is a TCP/IP network.

41. (new) The method of claim 38 wherein the input device is an off-the-shelf facsimile

42 machine.

43. (new) A method of transmitting a facsimile copy of a document from a first location to a second location where a computer data signal representing the document has been transmitted from a first processor at the first location to a second processor at the second location comprising the steps of:

receiving transmission of a computer data signal from a first processor at the first location to the second processor at the second location;

converting the computer data signal to a standard facsimile signal at the second location;

and

forwarding the second standard facsimile signal to an output device at the second location.

rendering a second document substantially similar to the first document at the second location;

43. 44. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

44. (new) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the steps comprising:

receiving a standard facsimile signal representing a first document from an input device at a first location;

converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal; and

sub *CS* 45 initiating transmission of the computer data signal to a second processor at a second location for creation of a second document at the second location which is substantially similar to the first document.

45. 46. (new) The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the input device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

46. (new) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the steps comprising:

receiving transmission of a computer data signal representing a first document from a first processor at a first location; and

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converting the computer data signal to a standard facsimile signal; and
forwarding the standard facsimile signal to an output device to cause creation of a second
document which is substantially similar to the first document.

⁴⁷ 48. (new) The apparatus of claim ⁴⁶ 47 wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile
machine.

⁴⁸ 49. (new) A computerized method of receiving funds for facsimile transmission services
comprising the steps of:
receiving a standard facsimile signal representing a first document from an input device at
a first location;
converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal;
charging a user at a second location a fixed fee; and
initiating transmission of the computer data signal to a second processor at a second
location for creation of a second document at the second location which is substantially similar to
the first document.

⁴⁹ 50. (new) A computerized method of receiving funds for facsimile transmission services
comprising the steps of:
receiving a standard facsimile signal representing a first document from an input device at
a first location;
converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal;
charging a user at a second location a fee based upon the size of the standard facsimile
signal; and
initiating transmission of the computer data signal to a second processor at a second
location for creation of a second document at the second location which is substantially similar to
the first document.

⁵⁰ 51. (new) The method of claim ⁴⁹ 50 wherein the second user is charged a fee based upon the
number of pages which the standard facsimile signal generates.

⁵¹ 52. (new) The method of claim ⁴⁹ 50 wherein the second user is charged a fee based upon the
amount of time the standard facsimile signal takes to be received.